

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09577 01 OF 02 142057Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-04 HEW-08 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3251

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09577

E. O. 11652: N/A

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PAGE 02 BONN 09577 01 OF 02 142057Z

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: TEACHERS' UNION CONVENTION

REF: BONN A-107, MAR 1, 1974

1. SUMMARY. THE 1974 ROUND OF DGB UNION CONVENTIONS BEGAN WITH THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE EDUCATION AND SCIENCE UNION (GEWERKSCHAFT ERZIEHUNG UND WISSENSCHAFT - GEW) WHICH WAS HELD IN MAINZ JUNE 5-8. DURING THE CONVENTION THE UNION LEADERSHIP ATTEMPTED WITH PARTIAL SUCCESS TO HALT THE LEFTWARD TREND OF THE UNION. AFTER A STRUGGLE WITH THE EXTREME LEFTISTS-STUDENT FACTION, GEW LEADERS SUCCEEDED IN REVISING THE CONSTITUTION TO DENY STUDENTS FULL MEMBERSHIP, TO COMMIT THE GEW TO FOLLOWING DGB POLICY ON LEFTIST EXTREMISM AND TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH LEFTISTS WHO ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE UNION POLICY. THE DEBATE BETWEEN THE LEFTISTS AND THE MODERATES ON THESE ISSUES LEFT NO TIME FOR ACTION BY THE CONVENTION ON NATIONAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR EDUCATIONAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DELEGATES APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE UNION CONSTITUTION STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL UNION LEADERSHIP AT THE EXPENSE OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AS POLICY MAKING BODIES AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS, WILL BE REPLACED BY MEETINGS OF DELEGATES. STUDENTS WILL NO LONGER BE RECOGNIZED AS FULL MEMBERS AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN SOME REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, BUT WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL STATUS AS EXTRA-ORDINARY MEMBERS WHOSE RIGHTS AND DUTIES WILL BE DEFINED LATER. APPARENTLY THE ADVOCATES OF REORGANIZATION BELIEVE THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE WILL HELP TO REDUCE INFLUENCE OF THE RADICALS.

3. THE CONVENTION ALSO DECIDED ON A NEW DUES' STRUCTURE WHICH IS MORE UNIFORM. GEW MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY MONTHLY DUES OF 1 PERCENT OF THEIR BASIC SALARY. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE DUES' STRUCTURE OF OTHER DGB UNIONS.

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PAGE 03 BONN 09577 01 OF 02 142057Z

4. THE CONVENTION ALSO DECIDED TO ESTABLISH "ARBITRATION COMMISSIONS" AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL. THE PURPOSE OF THESE COMMISSIONS IS TO DEVELOP UNIFORM STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES IN THE CASE OF VIOLATIONS OF THE DGB AND GEW CONSTITUTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS AND UNION COUNCILS. REASONS FOR EXPULSION UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ARE DEFINED AS "DELIBERATE DECEIT

WHEN APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP, ANTI-UNION CONDUCT AND ACTIONS VIOLATING THE UNION CONSTITUTION." THE UNION'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE PREPARATION OF REGULATIONS OUTLINING THE PROCEDURE OF THE ARBITRATION COMMISSIONS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANCTIONS WHICH THEY MAY IMPOSE. THE ARBITRATION COMMISSIONS WILL INCLUDE THREE PERMANENT MEMBERS AND SIX DEPUTIES. THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DEFENDANT WILL EACH NOMINATE ONE ADDITIONAL NON-PERMANENT MEMBER.

5. THE CONVENTION ALSO PASSED A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITION OF OCTOBER 3, 1973, WHICH STATED THAT ACTIVITY IN OR SUPPORT FOR LEFT-WING EXTREMIST PARTIES, ASSOCIATIONS OR GROUPS IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH MEMBERSHIP IN A DGB UNION.

6. THE CONVENTION REAFFIRMED ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS (MOST TEACHERS HAVE

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PAGE 01 BONN 09577 02 OF 02 142056Z

71

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 09577

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PAGE 02 BONN 09577 02 OF 02 142056Z

CIVIL SERVICE STATUS), BUT MAKES IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRIKE DEPENDENT UPON APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD. A MOVE TO INCLUDE STRIKES FOR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES WAS, HOWEVER, TURNED DOWN.

7. ERICH FRISTER WAS REELECTED GEW PRESIDENT BY A MARGIN OF 279 VOTES TO 72 WITH 33 ABSTENTIONS.

8. COMMENT. THE LEFTWARD TREND IN DGB AFFILIATED UNIONS IN RECENT YEARS WAS MOST APPARENT IN THE DG TEACHERS UNION. THIS DEVELOPMENT REACHED A CLIMAX IN 1973 AND 1974 WHEN THE LEFTIST FACTION TOOK OVER THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BAVARIA AND BERLIN AND SPLIT THE BREMEN REGION INTO TWO CONFLICTING GROUPS. APPARENTLY THE SPD ORIENTED GEW LEADERSHIP FELT THIS CONVENTION WAS THE TIME TO DRAW THE LINE TO PREVENT THEIR LOSING CONTROL OF THE UNION. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL, THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE IN THIS UNION WILL LIKELY CONTINUE. DURING THE CONVENTION, THE FINANCIALLY STRONG WUERTTEMBERG-BADEN DELEGATION PROVIDED MOST OF THE SUPPORT FOR CHARTING A MORE MODERATE COURSE FOR THE GEW.
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